

SALT TIMES



August 2004

Sheriff Garry E. Lucas

Who Looks at your License Plate?

By Sgt. Steve Shea

How often do you look at the license plates on your car? Probably not very often. If someone stole the license plates from your car, would you notice?

Car thieves are always looking for new ways to avoid arrest. Who can blame them? A stolen car is of no use to them in jail. The best way for a deputy to spot a stolen car is to check the license plate and thieves know it. An easy way to avoid detection is to remove the license plate from the stolen car, but a car with no license plates will surely attract a deputy's attention.

Often a car thief will look for a car similar to the stolen one. If your car is similar to the stolen car, the thief will steal your license plates to put on the stolen car. Sometimes the thief will even put the license plates from the stolen car on your car.

Imagine a deputy checking the switched plate on your car and, believing your car is stolen, pulling you over with his or her gun drawn. Meanwhile, the car thief is happily driving around in a stolen car with your license plates and little chance of detection.

How can you prevent this from happening to you? Start by memorizing your license plate or at least part of it. An easy method to help is to give the letters meaning. For example, if your license plate has the letters "DQY" you can remember them by thinking of it as "Dairy Queen Yummies."

Next, check the plates often. I recommend walking around your car each time you gas up. A quick walk around gives you the opportunity to check both the front and rear license plates.

Even better, take the opportunity to glance at the tires for proper inflation and leave the lights on to check for burned out bulbs.

If you discover one or both license plates missing, report it immediately.

The responding deputy will arrange to enter the license into a national database. If a police officer in

Kentucky checks the license, she'll know it was stolen from you.

Taking just a few seconds to ensure you have not fallen victim to a license plate thief can help the Sheriff's Office catch car thieves and prevent deputies from thinking you are in a stolen car. As an added benefit you can check those tires and lights to improve the safety of your family.



A Day With A Deputy

By Kasey Frazier



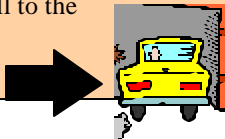
It was a quiet May morning in Hazel Dell. A perfect day to go on a ride-a-long with Deputy Phil Sample. It had been some time since I went on a ride with a deputy, and as events unfolded, several valuable points came up that are worth sharing.

Aside from taking a young man to jail for a misdemeanor warrant, not much had happened. So there we were driving around on patrol and I am thinking to myself, “when are we going to get a call?” And before I could finish my thought the call comes in, the lights and sirens go on and we’re off Code 3 to a call of a person brandishing a handgun in the parking lot of a grocery store. Something about going really fast with sirens on gets the adrenaline going, but scarier than that was watching the cars in front of us that either didn’t hear us or didn’t know how to yield, which brings me to point #1: **Yielding to emergency vehicles.**

Point #1

“Get out of the way, safely and legally.”

When an emergency or police vehicle is approaching with their lights and/or sirens on, you must yield by immediately driving to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the RIGHT hand edge or curb of the roadway. Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed. Even if you are on a one way street, in the far left lane, pull to the RIGHT and STOP.



Before we could even get to the call, it was canceled due to lack of information from the witness. That brings me to point #2: **How to be a good witness.**

Point #2

“Was that a crime I just saw?”

Statistics show that 64% of victims don’t report their crime. If you witness suspicious activity, call 9-1-1. Do not confront a suspect. The police can’t be everywhere at once, so it is important that the citizens act as the “eyes and ears” to let the police know what is happening. Crimes are often solved as a result of a partnership between the community and law enforcement. You are not “bothering” the police when you call to report suspicious activity and it is okay if you have limited information.

However, being a good witness will help the police to apprehend the suspects in a timely fashion. When calling 9-1-1 speak directly and brief. Have as much as the following information as possible available:

- What happened (specifics)
- Time of occurrence and location
- Is anyone hurt?
- How many suspects?
- Be prepared to give a full description of suspect (s) (gender, race, hair, weight, height, facial features, age, clothing description, weapons, and of a vehicle (license plate, color, year, make, model, and direction of travel.)

Help keep your neighborhood safe by calling at the first sign of suspicious activity and by being an excellent witness and calling the police.

Back to my story:

Our next call was to a burglary in progress. The two young suspects were caught inside the house and it turned out to be the home of one of the suspect’s

father.

The boy was not allowed in the home and had broken in with a friend. It was disheartening to see the estranged relationship between a father and son. At any rate, off to jail they went.

To end the day, we went to a meeting to set up a Neighborhood Watch at a mobile home park where the tenants were experiencing some problems with trespassing and other criminal behavior. Deputy Sample gave the residents valuable crime prevention information that was relevant to their situation which brings me to point #3: **Neighborhood Watch:**

Point #3

Keeping an eye on your neighborhood is everyone’s job.

If you live in the county and would like to set up a Neighborhood Watch in your neighborhood, call the Outreach Unit at 397-2104.

Well, that was my day with a deputy. I hope the information was helpful to you.

I think what I learned most was just how valuable the community is to the success of law enforcement.



The current population within the Clark County Sheriff’s Office patrol area is 188,900. That gives a ratio of 0.68 officers per 1,000 people.









Hiring a Contractor

Are you considering hiring a contractor for a remodeling job? If so, there are a few things you should know: Any work that “adds to or subtracts from real estate” requires a registered contractor. In Washington, all contractors who perform work, advertise, or submit bids or proposals must be registered with the Department of Labor and Industries, post a bond and carry general liability insurance coverage.









To report fraudulent contractors, call: 1-888-811-5974




Before you hire a contractor:

-  Plan your project carefully.
-  Interview several qualified registered contractors.
-  Ask for references and then check them out.
-  Evaluate all the aspects of the bid.
-  Request the contractor post a performance bond for the entire cost of the project if it is more than \$6,000.
-  Try to anticipate problems and come to an agreement with your contractor on how they will be handled before the work is begun.

Be wary of contractors who:

-  Provide references that can't be verified.
-  Offer a special price only if you sign today.
-  Only accept cash or require large deposits up front.
-  Do not provide a written contract.
-  Offer exceptionally long warranties.
-  Give you an offer that “sounds too good to be true.”

Call 1-800-647-0982 or visit www.LNI.wa.gov/scs/contractors/ to find out:

-  If a contractor is currently registered.
-  If there is or has been action taken against the contractor's bond.
-  Other business names a contractor may have used.

Part
2

Senior Food Safety

Compared to other age groups, seniors are more likely to get sick from harmful bacteria in food. And once they become sick, they are more likely than others to have serious health problems.

Certain foods may pose a significant health hazard because of the level of bacteria present in the product's raw or uncooked state.

Here are some foods that seniors should avoid:

- ? Raw oysters, clams, mussels and scallops.
- ? Raw or unpasteurized milk or cheese.
- ? Raw or lightly cooked egg or egg products used in salad dressings, cookie or cake batter, sauces and beverages.
- ? Raw meat or poultry.
- ? Raw sprouts (alfalfa, clover, bean and radish.)
- ? Unpasteurized fruit or vegetable juice.

Seniors are also advised to **follow these 4 food safety rules:**

1. **Clean**— Wash hands and surfaces often.
2. **Separate**— Don't cross-contaminate.
3. **Cook**— Cook to proper temperature.
4. **Chill**— Refrigerate promptly.

For more information about food safety, call FDA's Food Info Line

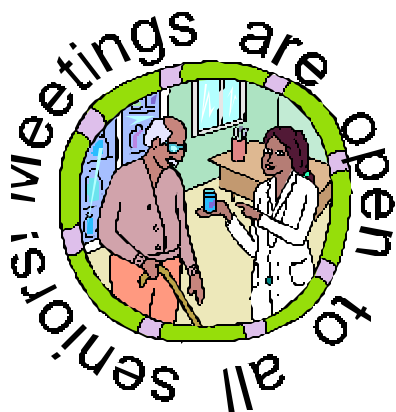
1-888-SAFEFOOD

SENIORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOGETHER

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Elder Abuse



- ▶ What is Elder Abuse?
- ? How can you recognize it?
- ? What are the financial, verbal and physical aspects of elder abuse?
- ? Who can you report it to?
- ? How can you provide help to the victim?

Come to an August S.A.L.T. meeting and find out the answers to these very important questions. If you are receiving care or know someone else who receives assistance, you won't want to miss this one!

Guest Speaker: Kay Mueller, Case Aid
Senior Information and Assistance

West Meeting:

August 16th at 11:00 a.m.
40 and 8 Community Room
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, WA

East Meeting:

August 23rd at 11:00 a.m.
Camas Police Dept.
2100 NE 3rd Avenue
Camas, WA

Please join us!

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